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OES FOR WIREC ACTION GROUP - SPECHT AND HILL

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAID](#) [ENRG](#) [EPET](#) [SENV](#) [SOCI](#) [TRGY](#) [KPAO](#) [KGHG](#) [KSCA](#) [VT](#)
SUBJECT: HOLY SEE: INTEREST IN WIREC 2008

REF: (A) STATE 138428, (B) VATICAN 0147, (C) VATICAN 0129

11. Charge d'affaires provided Ref A information October 8 to Dr. Paolo Conversi, the responsible official for multilateral environmental issues in the Holy See's foreign ministry. Conversi was personally very interested but has not yet been able to confirm whether the Vatican wishes to participate in WIREC 2008. Charge will meet Conversi for further discussions October 18 and will report further after that.

12. Given the recent marked interest of Pope Benedict XVI and the Holy See in climate and environmental issues (Refs B and C), and the Holy See's potentially great influence on world opinion, Embassy requests that the possibility of Holy See participation in WIREC 2008 be held open for a few additional days. We note that any Holy See delegation to the conference would likely be small.

SANDROLINI